



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

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VB

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/658,912	09/11/00	VACANTI	C 07917-082002

J PETER FASSE  
FISH & RICHARDSON PC  
225 FRANKLIN STREET  
BOSTON MA 02110-2804

HM12/0118

EXAMINER

AZPURU, C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

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DATE MAILED:

01/18/01

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/658,912**

Applicant(s)

**Vacanti et al.**

Examiner

**Carlos Azpuru**

Group Art Unit

**1615**

☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 41-44 \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 41-44 \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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### DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the preliminary amendment filed 09/11/01.

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 41-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 41-44 are non-statutory subject matter in that applicants are claiming a living cell.

Gage et al is cited as a patent of interest in its disclosure of implanting various cell types in a material which helps to anchor the cells. This is used in a method of treating defects, disease, or damage to the central nervous system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Azpuru whose telephone number is (703) 308-0237. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page, can be

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reached on (703) 308-2927. The fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 305-3592 and 305-4556. Unofficial faxes (such as proposed amendments to be used for an interview) may be sent to (703) 308-7921 or 7922. Unofficial faxes are intended for papers which will not become part of the official file, and it is requested the Examiner should be contacted in order to ensure prompt attention.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [thurman.page@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1234.

  
CARLOS A. AZPURU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1500